

BMO

Blue Mountain Outfitters

Newsletter: May 2006

Phone: 717-957-2413 Fax: 717-957-0074 E-mail: bluemountain@paonline.com Web: www.bluemountainoutfitters.net

103 S. State Road
(Rts. 11 & 15)
Marysville, PA 17053



Happy Spring!

Although it seems like we really didn't have winter this year, we're still excited to welcome Spring and the start (or continuation?) of a new Paddling Year! Welcome back to our current subscribers, and to our new ones...we're excited to have you aboard! BMO

Finally...Cupholders that work!

Doug's been on a quest for years to find a canoe-friendly cupholder, and has finally found it (kind of like the Holy Grail). The Liquid Caddy comes with a myriad of mounting options and will transfer from canoe thwart to camping chair frame, to bicycle, beach umbrella, picnic table, golf cart...you get the idea. We even saw several camo-clad guys cruising the recent Eastern Outdoor Show with one on each side of their belts...these guys were PREPARED! The bottom pops down to accommodate tall containers, and there's a clever, hard-to-describe interior "dial" adjustment that grips cans and bottles of all shapes and sizes to keep them intact in the rough stuff. (Attention Duckheads: The "Bloody Mary" will come equipped with these in time for your next Wye Island Race!) BMO

Southern Comfort

Those of you who purchased Wilderness Systems Tarpon sit-on-tops or Mad River Adventure canoes prior to this year, and wish you'd waited to get the new models featuring padded seatbacks, don't despair! Our suppliers South of the Border (Carolina, that is) have upgrade pad kits available that will easily attach to your existing seatback and get you stylin' with the rest of the folks. In stock and ready to go! BMO

BMO Gallery

A couple years ago our good friend Tim Lawson (fellow paddler and professional photographer) sent us a framed photograph captioned the "BMO Gallery of Fine Art". This has been followed by several others, and

Photo by: *Tim Lawson*



BMO GALLERY OF FINE ART
"BIRDS OF A FEATHER"

with his blessing, we'd like to share them with you.

Tim, an old school whitewater kayaker and tandem canoe paddler, recently added a Wenonah Encounter to his fleet and has become hooked on solo canoeing, particularly in the Adirondacks. His photographs of this Paddling Mecca are stunning, and we're excited to share them with you. Look for more to come in future issues! BMO

Wilkes Barre Dam Update

In our latest newsletter we alerted you to a dam proposed to be constructed on the Susquehanna River at Wilkes Barre, and asked for your help in fighting it. Thank's to all of you who stepped up and wrote letters. A public hearing was held on May 1st. You can still voice your opposition to this project during a second (highly unusual...makes us wonder) comment period that has been posted for March 13 – May 15, see details at the website below; your letters will definitely count. This issue has been featured recently in both "Canoe & Kayak" and "Paddler" magazines, and needs your help! The Susquehanna and all its inhabitants thank you!

Address your letters to:
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
State College Field Office
1631 South Atherton Street
State College, PA 16801

For more information:
<http://home3.netcarrier.com/~susquehanna/> BMO

The Dark Side

Want the ultimate in Creeking head and face protection with the look of Darth Vader? Enter the LecTor ProTektor from Shred Ready; the ultimate Creeking helmet, with breakaway mouth and nose guards. (Straight jacket not included.) Dinner, anyone? BMP

Darth Eric. Photo by: Mary



DVD's, Books, and River Guides

In addition to the new Jacksons listed in the "Sweet" article, Spring brings us a host of other great instructional DVD's and reading material to keep us going on and off the water:

"Solo Open Whitewater Canoeing" Veteran whitewater paddler and instructor Tom Foster has put together almost two hours of detailed open boat WW playboating instruction with something for everyone, from beginners to advanced paddlers. If you already paddle open boat, or aspire to join the "single bladers" this is a must have DVD!

"Whitewater Kayaking Basics for Women" Before "girls night out", check out "girls day out...on the water" with Anna Levesque's second women's paddling DVD. Anna's

first title "Girls at Play" was aimed primarily at established boaters; this one will be helpful for those just starting. Look for a lot more gals on the water after this!

"This is the Sea Two" Anyone who thinks touring paddling is boring had better check out this new DVD from Justine Curgenvin and Cackle TV

(Love that name!) Follow up to "This is the Sea" (didn't guess that, did ya!) this is over 90 minutes of edge-of-your-seat sea kayaking action that will give whitewater a run for its money.

Just out from Heliconia Press are three new books; "Sea Kayaking - The Essentials", "Canoe Camping", and "Recreational Kayaking". It's not just about whitewater anymore!

New since our last newsletter (I think... timelines are getting blurry) is the long-awaited

"Susquehanna River West Branch Water Trail Map", which joins the Middle & Lower section maps to give us 335 miles of mapped Susquehanna paddling. Still coming, the North Branch, and Juniata River.

For bird lovers (and believe me, after visiting some of these places if you aren't one already, you'll get hooked!) Audubon Pennsylvania brings us the "Susquehanna River Birding and Wildlife Trail", a stunningly illustrated guide to over 200 bird and wildlife sites, trails and scenic drives along the Susquehanna River corridor. BMP

Just In...Tilley Hats!

A couple years ago Mary was perusing the Eastern Outdoor Show in Lake Placid and checked out Tilley Endurable Hats. Top notch product, but not sure it would be a fit in our store. The rep had enough confidence in us that he gave her a hat, and said he was sure she'd come back. Well, it's been two years, and many customers asking for Tilleys (which we didn't have) so we've finally made the leap, and we think it's a great one!

These hats are as indestructible as they get (have you ever bought another hat that came with a lifetime warranty? And if that doesn't convince you, can you think of any other hat that would survive being eaten, and eliminated, by an elephant...true story, from an elephant trainer!) Enough said! They all include a little Velcro pocket in the crown for your contact info., along with anything else you want to include (Mary's always has enough money for a round in case we find a riverside bar, and everyone's wallet is at the takeout.) AND, this year they've introduced a Hemp Hat...cool, indestructible, and...well, we'll leave the rest up to you! BMP

Mary in her Tilley. Photo by: Doug



Eat, Drink and Be Merry

Aside from boats, nothing gets our attention quite as much as FOOD! Here's a few "camp kitchen" goodies we found recently:

Coleman brings us a nifty little folding table, the "Exponent Backpacker's Table & Gear System" (whew!, long name!) Made to strap around a tree, this light but sturdy table will hold your cooking gear at a comfortable level; no more hunkering down over the ground (a task that gets harder as the years go by, and usually involves Poison Ivy... Mary can attest to that.) Looking at our typical island campouts, Erik immediately envisioned each of us buying one, then setting up a buffet...Hor-d'Oeuvre tree, main dish tree, cocktail tree, desert tree, coffee & tea tree; the possibilities are as endless as the participants!

After years of experimenting with Rome Industries Pie Irons (the debate continues, round or square, but we all agree, cast iron) we tried their cast iron Wilderness Hamburger Grill last summer and fell in love with it. Kid tested and mother approved! Not just for hamburgers, this baby makes grilled chicken, shrimp, steak, you name it, as easy as, well, pie! Another item that caught our eye was their Pioneer Adjustable Grill; swivels left to right, up and down, in and out (kind of like the Hokey Pokey) Erik liked it so much it went on his Christmas List. And here's a hint for blueberry or cherry mountain pie lovers...try adding whipped cream cheese...Yum!

As a rule we try to stick with cans for our Island Camping beverages, but sometimes it's nice to enjoy a cold, local Microbrew, and our favorite, Tröegs, comes in bottles only. SO, to keep those babies cold (as well as water bottles for on-water time) we brought in a new neoprene Bottle Cozie to go with our Can Cozies. Cool! BMO

Sweeet!!!

Jackson continues to get happier, with their newest piece of outfitting, Sweet Cheeks! Standard in all adult size 2006 whitewater kayaks, this amazing breakthrough is also ideal for any whitewater, touring or rec kayak, upping the comfort factor for all. Basically an adjustable "beanbag" type seat cushion, Sweet Cheeks allows you to custom fit your kayak seat to YOUR seat. Snuggle in, re-arrange those magic little beads, and say "ahhh". As in "ahhh, that feels good!" Supports you on the back, sides, and legs, and also allows height adjustment. What could make us happier? Hmmmm...we'll just have to wait and see what EJ & Co. come up with next!

Speaking of which, also new at Jackson for 2006 is Boat Armor Outfitting, arguably the stiffest on the market. Held up to EJ's Landcruiser (okay, most folks put their boats on top of their vehicles, not vice a versa, but it did prove a point!); it should hold up to whatever you can dish out to it. Also out is their new promo video, with an in-depth product tutorial and lots of fun on-water footage. Free with all 2006 boat purchases, it's also available to view at all Jackson dealers. And coming soon, revised, improved "Playboating Basics" and "Advanced Playboating" DVD's; in the meantime, grab a deal on the originals...only \$19.95 while they last.

Cool-It with a Cozie



Feel the need for speed? Or looking to go after the gold for the Red, White and Blue? Coming soon to a Jackson Dealer near you, the Ricochet...3.5 meters of pure, Slalom Speed & Fun! BMO

Canoe Paddling... Sort Of



*War Canoe and River Bamboo
Photo of and by: Topher Reynolds*

Solo canoe paddlers new to the sport often come to us frustrated with trying to keep their boat tracking, and wonder if it's "okay" to try a kayak paddle. At the risk of being drawn, quartered, and hung out to dry by the traditionalists, the answer is, yes! Must be catching on, because Bending Branches introduced a paddle this year just for that purpose, the Sun Shadow Solo. Two sizes (one long enough for even the widest canoe) it's an eye-catcher as well; might even get those traditionalists drooling!

And, for the ever-growing canoe poling crowd (Topher has gathered quite a following here!) a couple new poles to add to the home-made ones. Foxworks offers a laminated wood pole (in keeping with their fine canoe & kayak paddles) for the traditionalists who want to step up from the "closet pole", and Scotland's Lendal offers a canoe pole version of their popular Paddlok kayak paddle in both Fiberglass and Carbon fiber. BMO

Laid Back Comfort

Through the years we've tried a myriad of camping chairs and have found many we liked, but Kris kept shaking his head and telling us they just didn't compare with the one he's used (and abused) for years. We've seen it in action and tended to agree, but it wasn't available any longer. Good news! Crazy Creek (of "Don't just do something, Sit There!" fame) has purchased rights to the original, and is resurrecting it as the "CradleLounger". Our first shipment was half spoken for by our staff, but there's still plenty to go around. BMO

Sit on It!

Break out the Margaritas and bring on the Flamingos! Sit-on-tops have come into their own, and BMO is creating a "boardwalk" area to feature them. From fishing to surfing to just plain hanging out in the sun, these boats are just going to get more and more popular. Check them out! We recently received the nicest



looking recreational/touring sit-on-top that any of our staff has seen to date...the Current Designs Kestrel 140 SOT constructed with CD's Composite Hybrid layup. How does 36 pounds sound for a 14 foot sit-on-top? We wanted to write a note telling you to come in and check it out, but, within two days of putting it on display, it sold and went out the door. We have more on order but we have a sneaky suspicion (not based on word from Current Designs - just our feelings) that demand for this very nice boat will out-pace the production rate. We'll keep you posted. BMO

Happy New Year!

Okay, we know it's already over, but had to update you on our latest Annual New Years Float (on the Susquehanna this year, since it wasn't frozen). 18-1/2 paddlers (Steph was pregnant) turned out at the Crack of Noon (well, okay, 2 pm) to celebrate 2006 in our traditional way, on the river, in a combination of solos, tandems, and (of course!) the Bloody Mary War Canoe. Even more special, this was the first Duckhead trip of the (calendar) year! BMO



*BMO Gang
NYD 2006.
Photo by:
Topher
Reynolds*

Contest: Name that Disaster

Those of you who know the notorious Pat Reilly, River Rat Extraordinaire, will not be surprised by the following photo; he didn't really think it was necessary to tie his boat up after finishing a training run, but Mother Nature had other things in mind. So...for future reference, this is what happens when an unmanned kayak runs the Dock Street Dam. A \$25 BMO Gift Certificate goes to the writer of the best caption for this photo. Also, an additional \$50 bounty (in the form of a BMO Gift Certificate) goes to the paddler who can retrieve and return the remaining piece of the puzzle...the bow, probably located somewhere between Harrisburg and the Chesapeake! BMO

Name That Disaster. Photo by: Kris



No Gimmicks, No Hype, Just Fluid

Welcome to BMO's newest WW kayak line, Fluid. In addition to playboats in three sizes (S, M, & L Flirts...Doug definitely fits the last category, as a flirt, that is!), South Africa's Fluid includes two creek boats: the Small Solo, a great creeker for paddlers from 100-230 lbs.; and the Large, which will handle a paddler up to 275 lbs. The Large Solo is also available in an Expedition model, with a sealed stern storage compartment for multi-day trips and WW expeditions. Exciting for parents who aren't sure about introducing their kids quite yet to a full-on WW boat, the Vaya is a forgiving kids sit-on-top that will let the tots test the waters, flat or moving, with little investment. BMO

<http://www.fluidkayaks.com/>

River Cleanup

Mark your calendars for September 16th (seems like a long ways away, but if the summer goes as fast as the winter did, it's just around the corner!) BMO will be partnering once again with the GVP Chapter of the Sierra Club for their annual

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Susquehanna River Cleanup. (We provide boats and shuttle, they do the work; I think we're getting off easy on this one!) If you'd like to volunteer or provide support in any other way (food, garbage bags, donations, etc.) contact Jack Flatley at riverman17018@comcast.net or 717 921-2708. BMO

Thanks!

That's it for now, just wanted to thank all of you for hanging out with us, and (once again...just have to throw this in!) if you are receiving this newsletter by mail, Please, Pease, Please give us an E-mail address so we can cut down on paper, time, and postage in getting it to you. Thanks!

Hope to see you at the shop and on the Water!

The BMO Crew BMO

DEMO DAY

Paddle - Pedal - Pole - Play

Test the Latest Canoes and Kayaks

- ♦ Paddle your choice of craft -- discover the differences that words cannot explain.
- ♦ Pedale the Hobie MirageDrive® -- put those big muscles to work and free-up your hands.
- ♦ Pole canoes from the standing position -- get a better view of the world.
- ♦ Play till your hearts content -- the explicit purpose of whitewater boats.



SUNDAY MAY 21, 2006

NOON - 5:00 PM

MARYSVILLE LIONS CLUB POND



Factory representatives for many of our product lines will be available to show their wares and answer your questions.

DIRECTIONS:

From I-81 take Exit 65 & follow Rts. 11&15 North into Marysville. 1.6 miles north of I-81 turn left onto Park St.; it's immediately before Specialty Bakers. From the north, follow Rts. 11&15 South to Marysville. 0.4 miles south of Blue Mountain Outfitters, turn right onto Park St.; it's immediately after Specialty Bakers.

Behind Specialty Bakers and just past the swimming pool is an unpaved road that bears off to the right at a narrow angle. Follow this road downhill to the pond. There will be signs to point the way.

**Please wear old footwear
and plan to get wet!**

Hope to see you there!

Questions?

**Call Blue Mountain Outfitters
at (717) 957-2413**

**or check our web site at
www.bluemountainoutfitters.net**

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